

Union Theological Seminary & Presbyterian School of Christian Education

344 Students
33 Faculty

Degrees Offered

Master of Divinity
Master of Arts in Christian Education
Master of Divinity/Master of Arts
in Christian Education
Master of Theology
Doctor of Philosophy

Special Programs

Project Burning Bush, for high school students
exploring vocation and the call to ministry
Kindling Weekend, for college students
interested in learning more about MDiv
and MACE degree programs
Institute for Reformed Theology
Asian American Ministry and
Mission Center

Partnerships

Union-PSCE at Charlotte, an extension
program in Charlotte, North Carolina,
at Queens University of Charlotte
Washington Theological Consortium,
a consortium of 10 theological institutions
in Virginia and the Washington DC
metro region
Rehoboth Project, a collaboration with
10 presbyteries for pastoral education
and renewal
The Blaze, a Montreat gathering for
leaders in youth ministry, co-sponsored
by Montreat Conference Center





Union Theological Seminary & Presbyterian School of Christian Education equips Christian leaders for ministry in the world – a sacred vocation that requires deep learning, commitment to service, and an ability to read culture and circumstance in the light of the rich resources of Scripture and theological tradition. The seminary’s core mission is to participate in the mission of the church by forming and equipping leaders for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

From its beginning as the Faculty of Theology at Hampden-Sydney College in 1812, Union Theological Seminary (UTS) sustained the intention of its founders to provide education for Christian ministry that is scholarly, pastoral, and engaged with contemporary life. In 1898 UTS moved from Hampden-Sydney to Richmond, Virginia, and in 1914 the seminary was instrumental in establishing the Assembly’s Training School (ATS) for Lay Workers, renamed the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in 1959. In 1997 the two institutions united, creating Union-PSCE, a theological school dedicated to serving the Presbyterian Church and the church worldwide. In 2002 Union-PSCE at Charlotte was established on the campus of Queens University in Charlotte, North Carolina. Reflecting changes in culture and labor dynamics, this campus offers weekend classes for commuting students who are unable to move to Richmond or to commit to full-time study. For those who are farther removed, the Extended Campus Program provides a means for degree study beyond the campus.

“One of my favorite things about Union-PSCE is the wonderful people who make up our community,” says Lindy Vogado, an MDiv student from South Carolina. “From the diverse student body to the very accessible faculty and staff, the interactions that I’ve had with others on this campus have truly formed my education and shaped my sense of calling.”

The Union-PSCE campus is rich with markers of its historical commitment to preparing men and women to lead the Church in its mission in the world. While the main quad is modeled on Jefferson’s “academical community” at the University of Virginia, the entrances to the buildings surrounding the quad face not inward,

but outward, signifying the school’s mission to the world. The beginnings of the ATS lie in a 1907 request from a young Annie Wilson to attend lectures at the male-only seminary in preparation for her appointment as a foreign missions worker. In the 1950s the school’s tennis courts were among the handful in Richmond where future Wimbledon champion Arthur Ashe, an African American, was allowed to practice as a boy. And in 1968 PSCE opened its campus and dorms to marchers traveling to Washington to begin the Poor People’s Campaign. Today, student-faculty Service Days and Disaster Relief mission trips continue this commitment to serve others in the name of Christ.

Many find the faculty’s commitment to the community and to students particularly inspiring. “Some of the most formative aspects of my seminary education at Union-PSCE have been conversations and collaborations with faculty members,” says Jenny McDevitt, an MDiv/MACE dual degree student. “I have been encouraged to pursue topics about which I am deeply passionate, and have been challenged to engage topics I would have preferred to avoid. As a result, I am better prepared to participate in the life of the church not only with enthusiasm, but also with integrity and a deep sense of responsibility.”

That same sense of responsibility is what Brint Keyes, a ThM student, finds exciting. “President (Brian) Blount’s vision for the school as an active member of the local community is unlike any that I’ve ever seen at a seminary. He not only preaches about the inbreaking reign of God, but has outlined plans for the seminary to be part of that reign here in Richmond. His vision of mixed-use housing and a sliding-scale medical clinic shows a real and practical commitment to ‘practicing what we preach.’ ”